



Coalition Connections

May 2017

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May has blossomed forth with flowers galore and birds, like the ospreys above, building elegant nests for their offspring. It's also a month of holidays, so get out and celebrate!

May 1 — May Day

May 5 — Cinco de Mayo

May 14 — Mother's Day

May 26 — First Day of Ramadan starts at sundown

May 29 — Memorial Day

Come to the Farmer's Market and load up on fruits and vegetables. And while there, drop by our table on Saturday, May 27 from 8 till noon.

Avalon Multicultural Festival — Saturday, May 6, Idlewild Park, 10 am to 2 pm — Rain date & time are the same, at Easton Middle School gym on Peachblossom Road.

**NEXT MEETING OF THE HUNGER COALITION:
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2017, 9 a.m.
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUILDING**

**DO YOU BELONG TO A CLUB, ORGANIZATION OR CHURCH GROUP
LOOKING FOR SPEAKERS?**

**I WILL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO SPEAK ON OUR WORK & I PROMISE IT
WON'T BE A DEBBIE DOWNER TALK. JUST LET ME KNOW!**

Talbot Family Network

The Talbot Family Network, in partnership with Talbot County Public Schools, is sponsoring a second seminar, **Beyond Diversity**, on racism and equity. The first session received incredibly positive reviews.

"This is an interactive seminar that requires active engagement. We are seeking participants from diverse racial backgrounds to foster a rich discussion," according to Katie Savon, interim director of the TFN.

Think about whether you or any staff or community members might be interested in attending and please share the invitation with them.

Go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beyond-diversity-tickets-33427820511>

This training will be held on **May 16 and 17, 2017 from 8:00 am - 4 pm** at the Talbot County Education Center, 12 Magnolia St., Easton, MD. Lunch will be provided.

Brookletts Senior Center



Emily Groll, owner of Eat Sprout, gave a cooking — and tasty tasting — demonstration of ground turkey sloppy joes in lettuce bowls at the Senior Center on May 3.

Emily and her husband Ryan have generously donated their time to our partners, giving demonstrations on how to cook and eat healthy, including in our public schools.

Meals on Wheels

Help is needed for packing meals, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from approximately 9 a.m. —11 a.m. Back-up drivers are also needed for meal delivery.

Contact Cheryl Knopf, Meals on Wheels Coordinator at 410-822-2869 x 225 or via email at cknopf@uppershoreaging.org for more information

[St. Michaels Food Pantry](#)

Beth Eckel, St. Michaels Food Pantry Manager, reports that “the St. Michaels Food Pantry appreciated the great response to its annual fund raiser, Hearts on Talbot. Two hundred, twenty-five Hearts were sold to our supporters.

“The Pantry also was the beneficiary of a fund raiser conducted by Laura and Jason Chance, proprietors of the Tricycle&Run Shop in St. Michaels. The 5-K race, called The Jelly Bean Jog, had as its entry fee the donation of non-perishable food for The Pantry. Quite a great bonanza for our shelves!

“The Pantry continues to offer gently used children’s storybooks to our clients. This additional nutrient is appreciated by our neighbors who visit The Pantry.

“Our volunteers were invited to participate in the Ringing of Bells opening ceremony of The St. Michaels Farmers Market. The farmers at Market, which is open each Saturday from mid-April through October, kindly donate gleanings to our Pantry.”

[WIC](#)

Talbot WIC is currently getting ready for EWIC to roll out on June 1st in our area and the staff is trying to attend as many events in all three of our counties that they can. EWIC are the new, more convenient cards that their clients can use. At the Easton Farmers Market, only two or three farmers are accepting the WIC coupons. WIC hopes that the cards will encourage more vendors to accept them.

[Important 2017 Legislation That Could Impact Your Programs](#)



Dear Partners,^[LTL]_[SEP] Thank you for your support of our anti-hunger proposals during the recent 2017 Maryland General Assembly session. The following successes would not have been possible without your support, testimony, phone calls, and emails. On behalf of the low-income Marylanders who will benefit from these changes, we thank you. We plan on meeting soon to analyze this session, strategize for the next session, and consider the impact of federal policy on future proposals. Please contact us if you are interested in participating.^[LTL]_[SEP]

[The Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act](#)

Passed and signed by the governor:
Senate Bill 359 and House Bill 257.

- * The Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program provides state funding to high-poverty schools to serve breakfast in the classroom to all students, free of charge.

- * This bill now allows greater participation of secondary schools in the MMFA program by changing the current requirement that breakfast be delivered to every classroom. Secondary schools can now use "Grab and Go" carts in addition to serving breakfast in the classroom.

- * Although an additional \$2.7 million in state funding was requested (to allow 93 high-poverty high schools, reaching more than 90,000 students, to participate in MMFA), no additional funding was allocated to the program, so the participation of additional schools is unlikely.

The Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017

Passed the House and Senate; awaiting action by the governor:
Senate Bill 361 and House Bill 287.

- * May be signed by the Governor on May 2 or May 4.

- * This bill will allow schools to continue to use the federal funding available through the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) without fear of losing state education funding. There are currently 227 Hunger-Free Schools in Maryland and many more that are eligible, but not enrolled.

The Maryland Farms and Families Act

Passed the House and Senate; awaiting action by the governor:

Senate Bill 278 and House Bill 586.

- * This bill has established the Maryland Farms and Families Program in the Department of Agriculture to double the purchasing power of food-insecure Maryland residents with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and to increase revenue for farmers through redemption of public benefits such as WIC and FSP at Maryland farmers markets.

- * Although the bill included a \$500,000 annual appropriation to the fund created by the bill, the funding was eliminated during the legislative process. Therefore, the program will not be implemented until it is funded.

- * Passed the House and Senate; awaiting action by the governor.

Senate Bill 853 and House Bill 860.

- * This bill repeals most of the restrictions that had previously applied to individuals convicted of drug felonies who apply for or receive Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) or food stamps (FSP/SNAP). Previously, these applicants were subject to drug testing, treatment, and sanctions.

- * Most Marylanders with drug felonies will now be able to receive TCA and/or SNAP without additional stigma, time limits, or testing requirements.

The Maryland Cares for Kids Act

* Missed opportunity - passed the Senate but died in the House.

Senate Bill 360 and House Bill 288.

* The Maryland Cares for Kids Act requested state funds to cover reduced-price school meal co-pays for more than 45,000 students so that all low-income students would have access to free school meals. Students eligible to receive reduced-price school meals are in families that are often struggling to make ends meet, especially given the high cost of living in Maryland.

* This was the second year that this bill was introduced. We made progress this year, with strong support in the Senate. However, the bill died in the House.